NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

There are 700 houses and shops untenanted, it is said, in the parish of St. Mary's, Nottingham, at present.——The front of a vinegar warehouse at Colchester, has been carried away by the bursting of a vat containing 13,900 gallons of water.——Government have sanctioned the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum at Brentwood.——The attendants at Windsor Castle were completely taken by railway storm on Tuesday week, with a shower of more than 1,000 visiters at once, and tickets for all to view the premises. ——At the Paul-street Baths, Liverpool, 20,650 persons have bathed gratis since March last.——The Newcastle corporation baths and washhouses were inaugurated on Monday week. They contain six warm baths for women with various conveniences, and as many for men, together with a plunge bath and ten dressing rooms in the latter division. There are three rooms for washers, each with ten stands for washing and boiling, and as many doors to a drying-room. The charges are, for a warm bath, 2d.; a plunge bath, 1d.; wash-tub and closet per hour, 1d. A smoke-consuming apparatus has been erected by Mr. Wallace. ——Mr. Bonomi, the architect (says the *Gateshead Observer*), having adopted the egg-shaped drain of Mr. W. B. Wilkinson, of Newcastle, made of artificial stone, for the drainage of the Gateshead lockup, West-street, it was laid by Mr. W. on Monday and Tuesday; but as, to the discredit of our borough, there is no main sewer to which it can be conducted, it cannot be brought into operation until — who will say when? —— At Anderston, Glasgow, the builders have had a caution at the police-court, where Messrs. Law and Selkirk, builders, were charged with having a new building in the course of erection at the New City-road, insufficiently fenced, and without a proper foot-way constructed for passengers, aggravated by neglecting or refusing to remedy the defect. The parties were fined in the lenient penalty of 10s.——The Water Company at Glasgow having mercenarily withdrawn the street and lane or close supplies of water, a series of spring wells are being opened, and the Gorbals Water Company have been invited to take the place of the City Company.——Near Dalmarnock, a new wooden bridge has been erected across the Clyde, to supply the place of the old one, now 30 years old, and much decayed. The new bridge, commenced only five months ago, was built by Mr. John Murray, of Coatbridge, from a design by Mr. Robson, C.E., who, it is said, has introduced several improvements in the mode of construction. The whole length is 355 feet, and the width within the side-rails 28 feet. There is a footpath on each side, covered with asphalte pavement, and the roadway is composed of a mixture of asphalte and whinstone metal, broken, 7 inches deep, and laid on the top of the planking, which had been previously caulked with oakum, and coated with pitch and sand, for the purpose of making it water-tight.——The Duke of Bedford is building a mansion at Ardsallagh, 12 miles from Dublin, at the cost of 40,000*l*.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

The Roman Catholic Chapel of the Holy Apostles, at Clifton, was opened on Thursday week.——The opening of the new church at Llanwenarth, near Abergavenny, took place on Sunday week. The contract was 780*l*., which, with sums expended in walling in the burial-ground, architects' fees, &c., amounted to about 910*l*. It was commenced in September, 1847: Mr. Williams, of Pontypool, was the contractor.——Huntington Chapel, Herefordshire, was consecrated on Friday in last week. It is erected on the site of the old edifice, with the addition of a chancel, from designs by Mr. James Cranstoun. Mr. R. Pritchard was the builder. It will seat about 150 persons: the style is Anglo-Norman. The entrance to the nave is on the south side, through a square-headed doorway with side columns and capitals, from which arch mouldings are raised, forming a tympanum over the oak door. The nave is divided from the chancel by a stone archway, with chamfered jambs running all round, and carved and moulded corbels placed at the springings, carrying inner arch stones with a second chamfer. The masonry over the arch is continued in a gable above the roof, and has springers, copings, and cross, with a circular window in the apex. The nave windows are narrow openings, with semi-circular heads and sunk and chamfered jambs on the outside, and deeply-recessed jambs and niches on the inside, glazed with green glass in small quarries with white borders. The chancel is divided into five compartments by flat buttresses, with a moulded corbel table running round it, under the eaves, and is lighted by three round-headed openings, and two circular windows, which are intended to be filled with stained glass. The roofs are of open timber work, plastered between the rafters, and covered with Staffordshire tiles laid to a high pitch. The plastering between the timber of the apsis roof is illuminated with characteristic devices in ultra marine and vermillion; and round the chancel archway and the arched heads to all the windows appropriate scripture texts are painted with illuminated capitals and borders, enriched and coloured with Norman ornaments. The seats are low and uniform throughout, without any doors, and are arranged on either side of the nave. The pulpit is of stone, with gilding on it. Near the pulpit is an oak lectern with standards and poppy heads, and a carved and gilded cross on each side. The font of stone is a square bowl upon a circular shaft, lined with lead, and having a drain from it into the churchyard. The chancel has a massive oak altar-table, with Norman columns at the angles, and two oak seats of the Glastonbury pattern, with altar-kneelers. In the north wall an aumbury is placed, which is provided with an oak door and strap hinges. The apsis floor is covered with encaustic tiles laid with plain blue and red bands, after the manner of some flooring in Rochester Cathedral, and is raised above the level of the nave by a stone step at the archway.——Stoulton Church, according to the *Worcester Journal*, was re-opened on 13th inst., after being extensively repaired and altered.——St. Sepulchre's Chapel and burial-ground, Jericho, Oxford, were consecrated on 23rd inst.——Waterbeach Church has had its chancel rebuilt by the new impropriate rector, Mr. Edward Mason.——Thorp-Arch Church is now undergoing considerable repairs, both interior and exterior. —— The foundation stone of the new church of St. Matthew, at Bank-Foot, Bradford, was lately laid. It is to accommodate 500, of whom 250 will sit free, and will consist of a nave and aisles, with a chancel, sacristy, and porch. The style is the decorated of the 14th century. Mr. John Hardy has given 2,500*l*. towards the endowment fund.——The new church of St. Michael, at Whitby, erected chiefly for behoof of sick and infirm persons, unable easily to ascend the flight of 194 steps leading to the old church, was opened last week. The foundation stone was laid on 29th September last year. It is in the early English style, 81 feet long by 40 feet wide, internally, with a chancel 20 feet wide by 12 feet deep. The entrances are at the east end, on each side of the chancel. The roof is open and of a single span, with dressed timbers, stained oak: the side walls are about 20 feet in height, and the apex of the roof nearly 50 feet from the floor. The ends of the building are finished with gables, and on the west gable is placed a bell turret. At the west end are three lancet windows of equal height (about 20 feet) and at the east three others, the central one being somewhat higher. As this church is literally confined by contiguous buildings, no lights could be obtained in the side walls. The sittings are pews fitted with doors, and open benches. There is a small gallery for children, and the entire accommodation is for about 700 persons. As the situation precluded the use of buttresses externally, piers have been advanced inside the building, dividing it into nine compartments, from which the ribs of the roof are made to spring. The exterior is entirely of stone: the interior lining is of brick, and the church will be heated with hot water. Messrs. Atkinson, of York, were the architects, and Mr. Gideon Smales had the contract for the joiners' work; Mr. Thos. Carter the contract as mason, completed under the hon. secretary, Mr. A. Stephenson; Mr. Jos. Brown the contract as glazier, and Mr. W. Stonehouse as painter. A font has been presented by the Archdeacon of York, and an oak pulpit by Mr. W. Cavillier, of Whitby.—— St. John's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which has been undergoing extensive repairs, alterations, and renovations, was to be re-opened on Sunday last. Mr. Dobson was the architect, and the repairs at first were estimated by him at upwards of 270*l*.; but, in May last, soon after commencing the work, so great was the dilapidation of the building, that the south front of the chancel fell, which rendered it necessary to rebuild the whole length of that front, together with the east end; and besides, the walls generally were found to be in a much more decayed state than was at first anticipated. The most obvious improvement relates to the removal of the pulpit, and the denuding of the pillars, which formerly were so built up as greatly to interrupt the distribution of light, and intercept the view. The pulpit has been removed to the south-west corner of the chancel, from which it is entered, and it projects into the south transept. In the chancel, however, the more important changes have been effected. The south wall and east end have been entirely rebuilt, in accordance with the architecture of the period. The great east window has five compartments, the centre one being assigned to the figure of our Saviour, contributed by Mr. Wailes, who has executed the whole of the glass staining. The oak roof of the chancel was obscured by a coating of lath and plaster, which the churchwardens have removed. The mural monuments have been replaced. A slight alteration has been effected in the arrangement of the pews. This is perhaps one of the oldest ecclesiastical edifices of which this ancient town can boast.

CURRENT COMPETITIONS.

OLDHAM UNION WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.

Sir,—As this workhouse has been twice advertised, and twice competed for, perhaps the following notes of the second competition may not be uninteresting to some of your readers. There were twenty-three designs in all, from which the committee selected, first, six, and afterwards three, *ad referendum*, and which they have placed in the following order:—First, a design marked with a yellow star (which is the production of Messrs. Travis and Mangnall, of Manchester*), provided it can be executed for the sum named in the conditions, 10,000*l*., including the architect's commission. This design, judging from the isometrical view (which was the only drawing of the selected set I was permitted to see), presents a simple appearance, with high-pitched roofs, overhanging eaves and barge-boards; it is proposed to be built of brick, with as few stone dressings as possible. The plan is an extensive court, entered by a large gateway, in the centre of the front range of buildings, which contain the union offices. The lunatic wards, men and womens' wards, and hospitals, form the other three sides, with the chapel and dining-hall in the centre of the main building.

The second in order is marked with a triangle, in red and yellow lines, and is of Gothic character. It is quadrangular on plan, with square towers at the corners of the wings, and a "church!" in the centre, of early decorated architecture, with a tower and spire at the north-west angle, a nave, and a chancel with a three-light window.

The third placed has the motto, "*Ad referendum*," and is of Perpendicular Gothic, with the chapel detached at the north-east corner in advance of the main building, having a nave and chancel and a north porch, and a bell-cote on the west gable: an octangular turret at the angle of the centre main building, terminating in an open spiral belfry, gives a collegiate character to the design.

The set marked "Simplicity and Convenience," is the design for Alysham Union Workhouse, with the Poor Law Commissioners' seals and stamps affixed, and is, I believe, Mr. Donthorn's design for that building.

"*Labore et Honore*" is the motto on the next design, which is Elizabethan in character, very similar in plan and elevation to the Ken-

* The successful candidates in the first competition also, but their design was abandoned because the tenders were very considerably above the amount specified in the instructions.

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